

### Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of uniquely identifying resources, comprising ~~steps of~~:  
2 modeling the resources using a hierarchical schema, wherein classes in the hierarchical  
3 schema correspond to resource types and wherein instances in the hierarchical schema represent  
4 individual resources, each instance being ~~associated with~~ defined according to a class definition of  
5 a selected one of the classes according that corresponds to the resource type of the individual  
6 resource represented by the instance; [[and]]  
7 defining, [[at]] in the class definition of a topmost class of the hierarchical schema, a  
8 naming rule property and an instance identity property, wherein[[:]]  
9 —————each class at levels of the hierarchical schema beneath the topmost [[level]] class  
10 inherits the naming rule property and the instance identity property;  
11 specifying a value of the naming rule property in each of the class definitions, wherein:  
12 the value of the naming rule property comprises at least one property name  
13 selected from a collection of property names comprising the class definition;  
14 for each class definition, the selected at least one property name is selected to  
15 ensure that each instance identity generated for the instances defined according to the class  
16 definition is unique among all of the instances in the hierarchical schema;  
17 the value of the naming rule property specified in at least one of the class  
18 definitions comprises at least two of the property names selected from the collection of property  
19 names comprising the class definition; and  
20 the value of the naming rule property for at least two of the class definitions  
21 differs; and

22           for each of the modeled resources, specifying a value of the instance identity property in  
23           the instance which represents that resource, wherein:

24                   the value of the instance identity is generated according to the specified value of  
25           the naming rule property for the class definition according to which that instance is defined; and  
26                   the value of the instance identity specifies a class name of a particular one of the  
27           classes that corresponds to the resource type of this resource and, for each of the at least one  
28           property name defined as the value of the naming rule property in the class definition of the  
29           particular one of the classes, a name and value pair comprising that property name and a property  
30           value corresponding thereto for the resource represented by this instance.

31                   ~~a value of the naming rule property for a selected class identifies properties of the~~  
32           ~~selected class that enable instances of the selected class to have unique identities; and~~  
33           ~~an instance of the selected class specifies the unique identity for that instance;~~  
34           ~~using the identified properties for the selected class.~~

Claim 2 (canceled)

1           Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~  
2           locating a particular instance that represents a particular resource using the value of the ~~instance's~~  
3           instance identity property for that instance.

Claim 4 (canceled)

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim [[4]] 1, wherein:  
2 the naming rule property for at least one of the class definitions further comprises a  
3 scoping context selected to ensure that each of the instance identities generated for the instances  
4 defined according to the class definition are unique within the scoping context; and  
5 the value of the instance identity property for each of the instances defined according to  
6 that class definition further comprises an identification of a the scoping context that is required to  
7 provide uniqueness of the instance identity value.

Claim 6 (canceled)

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim [[6]] 5, wherein:  
2 ~~the value of the instance identity further comprises an identification of a scoping context~~  
3 ~~that is required to provide uniqueness of the instance identity value; and~~  
4 the identification of the scoping context comprises a scoping class name that identifies a  
5 selected one of the classes, wherein the particular resource is unique within the selected class,  
6 along with and, for each of the at least one property name specified as the value of the naming  
7 rule property in the class definition of the identified one of the classes, a name and value pair  
8 comprising that property name and the value corresponding thereto for a particular instance of the  
9 identified one of the classes. one or more name/value pairs, wherein each name/value pair  
10 comprises a scoping class property name and a value for that scoping class property name,  
11 wherein the scoping class property names are specified as the value of the naming rule property  
12 for the scoping class.

Claim 8 (canceled)

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to Claim [[6]] 7, wherein:

2 the naming rule property for at the least one of the class definitions further comprises a  
3 root context to ensure that each of the instance identities generated for the instances defined  
4 according to the class definition are unique within the scoping context within the root context;  
5 and

6 the value of the instance identity property for each of the instances defined according to  
7 that class definition further comprises an identification of a the root scope within which the  
8 particular resource is unique.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 9, wherein ~~the identification of~~  
2 ~~the root scope comprises a domain name within which the particular resource is located.~~

1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the naming rule  
2 property is specified using a structured document.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the naming rule  
2 property is specified using a structured markup language.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hierarchical schema is an

2 object-oriented schema.

Claims 14 - 16 (canceled)

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): A method of generating unique resource identities, comprising:

2 determining a particular resource for which a unique resource identity is to be generated;

3 accessing a class hierarchy with which resources are modelled, thereby obtaining a class

4 definition for a class that corresponds to a resource type for the particular resource;

5 locating, in the class definition, a naming rule that specifies how identities for instances of  
6 the class are to be generated, wherein:

7 the naming rule is specified in the class definition as a value of a naming rule  
8 property;

9 the naming rule specifies at least one property name, each of the at least one  
10 specified property name selected from a collection of property names comprising the class  
11 definition to ensure that each of the instances of the class are uniquely identified within the class  
12 hierarchy;

13 the naming rule specified in at least one of the class definitions comprises at least  
14 two of the property names selected from the collection of property names comprising the class  
15 definition; and

16 the value of the naming rule property for at least two of the class definitions  
17 differs; and

18 generating the identity for the particular resource using the located naming rule, wherein:

19                   the identity is generated according to the located naming rule; and  
20                   the generated identity specifies a class name of a the class that corresponds to the  
21                   resource type for the particular resource and, for each of the at least one property name specified  
22                   by the located naming rule, a name and value pair comprising that property name and a property  
23                   value corresponding thereto for the particular resource.